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PTO/SB/21 (09-06)

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## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

4

Application Number

10/759,973

Filing Date

January 16, 2004

First Named Inventor

Richard A. Hogle

Art Unit

1754

Examiner Name

Ngoc Yen M. Nguyen

Attorney Docket Number

M03A445

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)



Fee Transmittal Form



Fee Attached



Amendment/Reply



After Final



Affidavits/declaration(s)



Extension of Time Request



Express Abandonment Request



Information Disclosure Statement



Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)



Reply to Missing Parts/  
Incomplete Application



Reply to Missing Parts  
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53



Drawing(s)



Licensing-related Papers



Petition



Petition to Convert to a  
Provisional Application



Power of Attorney, Revocation



Change of Correspondence Address



Terminal Disclaimer



Request for Refund



CD, Number of CD(s) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Landscape Table on CD



After Allowance Communication to TC



Appeal Communication to Board  
of Appeals and Interferences



Appeal Communication to TC  
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)



Proprietary Information



Status Letter



Other Enclosure(s) (please identify  
below):

an Itemized Certificate of Mailing,  
a Response to Restriction  
Requirement (2 pp.), and Return  
Receipt Postcard

#### Remarks

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission or credit any overpayment.

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name

The BOC Group, Inc.

Signature

Printed name

David A. Hey

Date

July 20, 2007

Reg. No.

32,351

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Kimberly S. Brown

Date

July 20, 2007

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Attorney Docket: M03A445

Serial No.: 10/759,973

Filed: January 16, 2004

Confirmation No.: 8329

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Number, if applicable

908-771-1729  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

Itemized Listing of Attachments:

A Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/21), a Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pp.), and a Return Receipt Postcard

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard A. HOGLE, Donald P. SATCHELL Jr., Robin CLOUGH,  
Robert DAWSON, David GAWLOWSKI

Serial No.: 10/759,973

Filed: January 16, 2004

Examiner: Ngoc Yen M. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1754

Attorney Docket: M03A445

Confirmation No.: 8329

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DISPOSAL OF HYDROGEN FROM  
FLUORINE GENERATION, AND FLUORINE GENERATORS INCLUDING  
SAME

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated 22 June 2007 applicants make the following remarks.

The Examiner has required a restriction between the following groups of claims:

Group I, claims 1-15, 17 drawn to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 422, subclass 177+; and

Group II, claims 16, 18 drawn to a process for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 423, subclass 210+.

Appl. No. 10/759,973  
Amdt. dated 07/20/2007  
Reply to Office Action of 06/22/2007

With respect to the above restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-15, 17 directed to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid.

This restriction requirement is traversed on the following grounds.

The subject matter of the two groups noted by the Examiner are related, i.e., both relate to disposal of hydrogen in a fluid. Such relationship suggests that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner in examining both sets of claims at the same time.

Because the life of a divisional application begins to run from the filing date of the parent application, all such related applications will necessarily expire on the same date. Therefore, it is unreasonable to continue to apply restriction practice to applications, for what appears to be solely the purpose of collecting additional filing and prosecution fees.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file divisional applications at a later date, on inventions not elected in this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 20, 2007

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